

# A blessing for young patients

Intensive care unit for the St. Benedict Hospital Ndanda

In this country, Intensive Care Units (ICUs) are an integral part of Hospitals: ICUs often provide life-saving services for patients in a state of critical health. As a Mission Paedictiner and Physician, Br. Isaiiah in Tanzania is committed to ensuring that his patients, including children and premature babies, have a better chance of survival through proper treatment and supervision in the intensive care unit. So Far, a ward, tailored to the needs of seriously ill people, is missing.

In October of last year, we treated a two-year-old boy who had swallowed part of the skull of a fried rat over dinner. Close to choking, he arrived at the hospital the next morning with his parents. In a total of two very dramatic surgeries and a whole night in the operating room, where we had improvised an ICU, the medical team managed to save him. However, if the ICU were equipped with a ventilator, we would have had a much easier time, as well as a reduced risk of failure.

Recently, a boy about eight years old was brought to us who had fallen from a mango tree. He had a serious abdominal injury with internal bleeding and an injury to a kidney. He underwent immediate surgery, and he was fine the next morning. Then, on the afternoon of the same day, he died suddenly. No one had been able to observe what it was all about. In an ICU, he would have had much better chances of survival.



These two examples, as well as many others, show the importance of an ICU for our hospital in Ndanda.

So far we have had a baby intensive care unit, which is far too tight and inadequately equipped in terms of material. The adult patients who are seriously ill have thus far been cared for in normal wards.

We are therefore planning to build a new baby and adult intensive care unit with a dialysis unit. The ICU is supposed to provide space for ten babies. Ventilators are said to be available for three premature babies. In addition to premature babies, young children suffering from Anaemia, malnutrition, blood poisoning, and newborn Tetanus can also be treated appropriately.

### **Higher chance of survival**

The ICU is planned with four beds; a ventilator in conjunction with a Speckling oxygen concentrator enables artificial ventilation. So far, this has been very limited. In Intensive care, all adults and children in critical and sickly condition who have a realistic chance can be treated.

For example, patients with severe injuries or burns, patients after major surgeries, patients with respiratory distress of varying causes, with severe Malaria, Meningitis, Blood Poisoning or Tetanus.

A dialysis unit is planned in the immediate vicinity of the adult ICU. In the last Edition of the Mission Sheets, we had reported on our Abdominal Dialysis Project. In addition to abdominal dialysis, we would also like to offer Hemodialysis, which means blood washing using a dialysis machine.

From a dialysis center in Flensburg we received a donation of four used dialysis machines, which were put on the way to Ndanda in the container at the end of January. Once the devices are installed, we can begin treatment. It will be the first dialysis station in the south of Tanzania (In an area of more than 500 Kilometers there is no comparable offer).

An important component of the project is the training of personnel. In particular, there is a need for the training of at least one nurse in intensive care and one nurse in early baby intensive care. Training of dialysis treatment is offered free of charge by the supplier of the Material Allies.

As I write these lines, a retired architect from Munich is a current guest in Ndanda and is now drawing up the plans for the building complex. We hope to complete these construction measures during 2019.

Fortunately, we already have some medical equipment for the ICU such as ECG, patient monitors, and defibrillator as a donation. In any case, we will still need a ventilator with a related oxygen concentrator, which is suitable for ICU conditions.

## **New building of an ICU with `Baby-Intensiv` for new born and premature infants**

The death of a child makes the family suffer. Many deaths could be prevented as Br.Jesaja tells. There are 44 of 1.000 kids dying during their first year of life. In Germany, the figure is only 3,8 for comparison.

-for **10 Euro** we can provide a **Beatmungstubus**

-for **30 Euro** a kids stethoscope

-for **50 Euro** a anaesthesia bag

Especially needed are at least two high-quality machines:

-one oxygen resuscitation apparatus for **14.850 Euro**

-one oxygen concentrator for **9.640 Euro**

Heading: **Hospital Ndanda**

Bank account: Sparkasse Landsberg am Lech

IBAN: DE89 7005 2060 0000 0146 54

We are convinced that this project is going to be a huge blessing for the whole region!